

spots black and confluent; crown white, with three conspicuous black lines; nape white, spotted with black; hind-neck and sides of neck have neossoptiles, with conspicuous sheaths enclosing the bases; back and rump white, with blackish-brown patches; wings with short quills bursting at their tips, the other portions in white down; the lesser and greater wing coverts have each a bar of light brown upon them; axillaries brown, barred with black; lores white; bill brown; no tail quills; legs and feet dull yellow; eyes umber.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF MIRAFRA
(BUSH-LARK) FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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(Communicated by F. G. A. Barnard.)

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MR. Bernard H. Woodward, F.G.S., the Curator of the Perth Museum, recently handed to me for identification a Passerine bird (in skin), stated to have been shot by the Museum Collector on the sand tracts near Onslow, on the north-west coast of this State.

After a careful examination I find it to be a new *Mirafra*, and I propose to name it *Mirafra woodwardi*, as a tribute and an appreciation of the very valuable services rendered by that gentleman not only to Australian ornithology, but also to science in general.

The bird under notice is a true scutelliplantar, showing with distinctness the scale divisions on the hinder aspect of the tarsus—a rare characteristic in the Passerines. It also possesses many of the other distinguishing characteristics of one or other of the Alaudidæ to which I propose to briefly refer. In general, and comparing it with the members of the Alaudine family, it is like the English Sky-Lark, *Alauda arvensis*, in that it has the diminutive first primary quill, and that it exhibits a perceptible crest, but it is unlike it in that it lacks the straight hind claw, and it shows an inequality in the length of the secondary quills as compared with the primaries. It is like the Calandra Larks, genus *Melanocorypha*, inasmuch as it possesses the stout vaulted mandibles characteristic of that genus, and that the wing is more pointed and that the secondaries do not reach the tips of the primaries, but unlike it in that it is smaller in size and the long straight toe is absent. It is like the Calandrellæ inasmuch as it possesses the rudimentary first primary and the curved hind claw, but unlike in that the secondaries are not as long as the primaries, and that it possesses a crest, which the Calandrellæ do not. It is like the Galeritæ, or Crested Larks, inasmuch as it possesses a crest, although not in such a pronounced form, and in the general

resemblance in length of the hind claw, but unlike in that the *Galeritæ* have slender bills and the first primary generally well developed.

In particular, and comparing it with the *Mirafra horsfieldi*, it is much more robust, and handsomer, possessing as it does a rich rufous brown, which predominates (although lighter on the under surface) instead of the indistinct ashen grey of *Mirafra horsfieldi*.

The spur, also, on the hallux is somewhat longer and the crest more perceptible and pronounced than in the latter.

I have appended a specific description, as also a table of the respective measurements of *M. javanica*, *M. secunda*, *M. horsfieldi*, and the member of the genus now being described.

Reference to that table will show that the last-mentioned is materially longer and bigger than the African form or the Australian forms, both as regards total length, wings, tail, and tarsi.

MIRAFRA WOODWARDI, sp. nov.

Chin, throat, and fore-neck pale buff, deepening into an irregular band of ferruginous blotches on the chest, and again fading into a uniform pale buff on the breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts; flanks and thighs a deeper buff; and the under surface of the wings a uniform fawn, showing dark marking on web towards the extremities; tail feathers (12 in number) terminating evenly, the outer feather at either side passing almost to white; under-web darkish, with many of the remaining tail feathers alternating buff and blackish on either side of shaft. The whole of the surface (excepting the nape), and extending from the head to and including the tail, a rich, rufous brown, relieved with saggitate blackish centres and shafts marked with an indistinct band of greyish feathers. The secondaries do not cover the tips of the primaries; crest distinctly perceptible; mandibles stout and vaulted, and slightly compressed at sides; upper mandible horn-colour, deepest at culmen; lower mandible paler at point, fading into white; legs brown; irides dark brown.

Locality, Onslow, Western Australia.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF AUSTRALIAN MIRAFRÆ AND *Mirafra javanica*.

Member of Genus.	Total Length.	Culmen.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
<i>Mirafra javanica</i> ...	{ 5.2 { 5.5 }	... 0.6	{ 2.85 } { 2.95 }	{ 1.8 { 1.9 }	... 0.9
„ <i>secunda</i> ...	5	... 0.5	... 2.8	... 1.8	... 0.7
„ <i>horsfieldi</i> ...	5.3	... 0.55	... 2.9	... 1.85	... 0.85
„ <i>woodwardi</i> ...	5.75	... 0.5	... —	... 2.25	... 0.95

I regret that at present I am unable to give any particulars regarding its song or nidification, but I hope to do so later on.